

**350 Years of American Jewish History:
A Commemorative Collection**

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By Chance or Choice: Jews in New Amsterdam 1654

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Hershkowitz's article provides a reexamination of the circumstances behind the arrival of the first permanent Jewish residents of New Amsterdam in 1654–1655. At the heart of his article is an examination of the factors that determined the timing of the arrival of the first Jewish residents and what happened to those original settlers over the next few years.

Dear Mrs. Cad: A Revolutionary War Letter of Rebecca Franks

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Stern examines a letter between Rebecca Franks, of the famous Philadelphia family, and her cousin Williamina Bond Cadwalader. The letter provides an interesting insight into the daily lives of several prominent Americans during the late eighteenth century.

An Eighteenth Century Hebrew Lu'ah from Pennsylvania

Jonathan D. Sarna
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During the late eighteenth century, a religious functionary in Pennsylvania created a *lu'ah*, a Jewish religious almanac. Jonathan D. Sarna analyzes the document's contents and places the almanac into its religious context and its American milieu.

The Myth of the Trefa Banquet: American Culinary Culture and the Radicalization of Food Policy in American Reform Judaism

Lance J. Sussman
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Lance Sussman debunks many of the myths associated with the infamous Trefa Banquet of 1883, at which the Hebrew Union College celebrated the ordination of its first four graduates.

Anshe Sfard: The Creation of the First Hasidic Congregations in North America

Ira Robinson
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Robinson challenges conventional notions about the origins of Hasidism in North America, arguing that the period prior to World War II deserves to be studied. His analysis provides new insight into a lesser-studied aspect of American Judaism.

A Century of Medals, and Still Counting: Anniversaries of the Jews in America

Ira Rezak
pp. 67–75

Among the most enduring of symbols of the three anniversary celebrations of American Jewish life in 1905, 1954, and 2004, are the commemorative medallions. Ira Rezak provides the first systematic examination of the character of these medallions and the men and women who designed them.

The American Jewish Community Anniversary Proclamations

Frederic Krome
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An interesting point of comparison between the American Jewish community's tercentenary and 350th celebrations are the proclamations issued by the national organizations involved in the celebrations. Krome provides a comparative analysis of the 1954 and 2004 documents.

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Color Images of Pertinent Documents

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